

*A Study On
Forgiveness*



YES & NO

1.
People are
naturally jerks.

2. There is someone in my
life that I still struggle to
forgive.

3. Forgiving is more painful than the wounds
that caused it.

4. When you forgive people, you have to give them another
chance.

5. If you refuse to ask God for forgiveness, He can't forgive you.

◇ What experiences have you faced that are extremely difficult to offer forgiveness to the offender?

READ Matthew 18:21, 22 (NIV):

21 Then Peter came to Jesus and asked, "Lord, how many times shall I forgive my brother or sister who sins against me? Up to seven times?"

22 Jesus answered, "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy-seven times.

◇ What do you think Jesus meant by this?

≈ ἑβδομηκοντάκις ἑπτὰ - **hebdomēkontakis hepta**: seventy-seven or seventy times seven? What does this mean?

◇ Is it possible to forgive and to forget? Literally?

READ Luke 23:34 (NIV):

"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."

◇ How can we say the same thing to the jerks in our lives when they know exactly what they're doing? How do we forgive them? Do we have to forgive them? They're not asking for forgiveness. Does that get me off the hook? If they don't want forgiveness from me, then obviously I'm under no obligation to grant them forgiveness, right?

✓ What is **ignorance**, really?

✓ Look again at Yes & No statement number five: Did the Son of God actually forgive people who refused to ask Him for forgiveness—at a time when they were intent on destroying Him?

◇ How does Christ's example on the cross help us move from Resentment to Regret, and finally to Resolve?

DIG DEEPER

4 OUTLANDISH RESPONSE

**DIG DEEPER
CONTINUED**

◇ How many people are necessary in order for forgiveness to take place? Two? Every person involved? One?

Read Luke 6:27, 28 (NIV)

27 "But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."

◇ Did Jesus allow people to walk all over him? How did Jesus demonstrate a genuine love for his enemies?

ACTION STEPS

1. What do I need to do to grant forgiveness to the greatest offenders within my life? How can I move from Resentment to Regret to Resolve?
2. Go through your personal list and experience the power of granting a full pardon to those who have caused you pain.
3. Christ said to be as wise as a serpent and gentle as a dove. How does your resolve match that with the people you have pardoned?

MY PRAYER

1. Who do I need to grant a pardon to?
2. How can I forgive the unforgivable?
3. How does this enhance my perspective of God's character even more?